WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of preparing Troponin I, which method comprises protecting free sulfhydryl groups of Troponin I under reducing conditions.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the free sulfhydryl groups are protected by sulfitolyzation.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein sulfitolyzation comprises reacting reduced recombinant Troponin I with sodium tetrathionate.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the recombinant Troponin I is expressed in a bacterial expression system.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the bacterial expression system is an *E. coli* expression system.

6. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises purifying the sulfhydryl-protected recombinant Troponin I.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the Troponin I is purified by chromatography.

8. The method according to claim 6, which comprises purifying the Troponin I under non-reducing conditions.

9. The method according to claim 6, which further comprises deprotecting the sulfhydryl groups from the purified Troponin I..

10. Troponin I comprising sulfhydryl protecting groups.

11. The Troponin I of claim 10, which is denatured.

12. The Troponin I of claim 10, wherein the sulfhydryl protecting groups are sulfates.

13. A method of purifying Troponin I, which method comprises subjecting Troponin I comprising sulfhydryl protecting groups to chromatography.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the sulfhydryl groups are protected by sulfitolyzation.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein sulfitolyzation comprises reacting reduced, denatured recombinant Troponin I with sodium tetrathionate.

16. The method according to claim 13, which comprises subjecting the Troponin I to chromatography under non-reducing conditions.

17. The method according to claim 13, wherein the Troponin I is expressed in a bacterial expression system.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the bacterial expression system is an *E. coli* expression system.

19. The method according to claim 13, wherein a chromatographic support is an anion exchange column.

20. The method according to claim 19, which further comprises chromatography

on a hydrophobic interaction chromatographic support.